

Despite growing up experiencing discrimination in the segregated South, she graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946 and then journeyed North where she would graduate with a Master of Science from the University of Michigan in 1948. She moved back to Florida to work at Bethune-Cookman University and then her alma mater Florida A&M, whereafter she accepted a position with Miami-Dade Community College.

After a distinguished career in education as a single mother to two children, Congresswoman Meek was the second Black legislator to be elected to the Florida House in 1979. She served there until 1982, when she became the first African American woman to be elected to the Florida State Senate. As a State Senator, she served on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee and advanced minority and literacy policies.

In 1992, Congresswoman Meek was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 17th Congressional District. Upon taking office, she was placed on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where she led on district priorities, including the hard work of helping Florida rebuild after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew. During her tenure, she successfully addressed issues such as economic development, health care, education, and housing for marginalized and underserved communities. Her efforts delivered \$100 million in federal assistance to rebuild Dade County. She also sponsored legislation creating the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. These exemplary contributions have inspired countless young women and men to serve their communities.

Congresswoman Meek is a strong advocate for gender and racial equality, senior citizens, the poor, and Haitian immigrants. She has received dozens of honors and awards including Juris Doctorates from the University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Barry University, Florida Atlantic University, and Rollins University.

Madam Speaker, I had the great privilege of serving alongside Congresswoman Meek for many years. She is a trailblazer and inspiration to so many women. I wish her many more years of happiness as she celebrates her 95th birthday.

BLAKE CHURCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Blake Church for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Blake Church is a student at Arvada West H.S. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Blake Church is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Blake Church for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I

have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER BRETT FISHEL AS THE SPRINGGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2021*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker. I'm honored to recognize Officer Brett Fishel upon earning the Springgettsbury Township Police Department 2019 Officer of the Year award. I commend Officer Fishel on his years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America.

Officer Fishel came to Springgettsbury Township Police Department in 2015, following two years with the Southern York Regional Police Department. In 2019, Officer Fishel continued to do what he had done since his arrival: display good judgement, make sound decisions, and perform tireless service—especially when he was thrust into a greater leadership role. Due to staffing shortages and shift structure, Officer Fishel frequently served as "Officer in Charge" (OIC) during many shifts. In 2019; he was assigned to the permanent night shift, and still maintained OIC duties—effectively managing two positions; quite unusual for an officer who had been with the department only for a little over 3 years.

Officer Fishel remained a leader in most activity areas for patrolmen, maintaining the dedicated personal work ethic displayed throughout his tenure—all while becoming a new father. Despite missing December to welcome the new addition to his family, he had 445 traffic enforcement contacts and made 79 criminal arrests. In 2018, he was named a DUI Top Gun Award winner, and in 2019 he continued to keep our roads safe through 25 DUI arrests.

Throughout Officer Fishel's service, what stands out most is the manner in which he interacts with people around him. His calm and professional demeanor consistently received praise from the community, with many citizens writing to STPD officially to thank him for his assistance. He even received thank you cards from some of those traffic contacts because of the way he treated them when he pulled them over.

Officer Fishel was recognized for three internal accomplishments in 2019 for extraordinary actions taken in the line of duty, ranging from a motor vehicle theft arrest to saving someone's life in a house fire. In the house fire incident, Officer Fishel and another officer were dispatched just across the York Township line where a disabled female was reporting her house was filled with smoke and she was unable to get out of bed. The two officers responded to the location to find a smoke-filled house with the front door locked and alarms sounding. Upon forcing the front door open, they were met by clouds of thick, dark smoke, which prevented them from seeing and navigating the residence. With the help of a third officer from YARPD, they were able to locate the individual and carry her to safety.

Officer Brett Fishel's consistent professionalism and dedication to duty has set the standard for all officers to follow. For his exemplary performance, tireless service, and commitment to the mission and vision, I am proud to honor him as the Springgettsbury Township Police Department 2019 Officer of the Year.

ZACHARY HAMILTON EARNS  
EAGLE SCOUT RANK

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2021*

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zachary Hamilton for earning the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 79 of Valrico, FL. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank. This honor requires years of effort to develop the necessary leadership, service, and outdoor skills. To earn it, Zachary's project consisted of raising funds, collecting clothes, and repairing bikes for a local homeless project. Zachary and many of his fellow Scouts then handed out these items and provided food for the homeless. The leadership skills he has learned through the Boy Scouts already benefit our community and will continue to help in countless ways.

Zachary began his Scouting Career as a Tiger Cub in Second Grade. He has been active in Scouting as well as National Honor Society and Junior ROTC organizations. On behalf of the Fifteenth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again to Zachary Hamilton for becoming an Eagle Scout. We are proud of his continued success and thank him for his dedication to making our community a better place.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
JOEY BLAZE FOR WINNING THE  
DIVISION I WRESTLING STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2021*

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school wrestler in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Joey Blaze, a sophomore at Perrysburg High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division I State wrestling title. Joey overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the Division I State Wrestling Championship.

In pursuing the State championship, Joey Blaze defeated his opponent in the finals of the 138-pound classification. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the mat, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. Joey led his team to rank sixth place overall in the championship. He has achieved an impressive season record bringing pride to his school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Joey Blaze of